

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GABORO 00354 091706Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 CU-04 IO-13 DHA-02 MCT-01 ORM-02 AID-05 OMB-01
/105 W
-----091712Z 112071 /44

P 091325Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9438
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK 396

UNCLAS GABORONE 0354

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR, SREF, BC, RH

SUBJECT 51 STUDENTS RETURN TO RHODESIA

REF GABORONE 319

1. A GROUP OF ABOUT 100-125 RHODESIAN PARENTS MET WITH THEIR CHILDREN IN FRANCISTOWN ON FEBRUARY 6 TO ASCERTAIN

FOR THEMSELVES HOW THE 384 STUDENTS HAD COME TO BOTSWANA. MEETING ALSO ATTENDED BY CHARLES TIBONE, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, NICHOLAS DE ROUGEMONT OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (BASED IN SALISBURY,) CANON BURGESS CARR OF ALL-AFRICA COUNCIL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GABORO 00354 091706Z

OF CHURCHES AND BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HEAD OF CHANCERY. MUCH TO PARENTS DISMAY ONLY 51 CHILDREN AGREED TO RETURN TO RHODESIA. ONE PARENT CLAIMED HIS CHILDREN HAD TOLD HIM THEY HAD BEEN ABDUCTED AT GUNPOINT. HE WAS ALLOWED TO TAKE THEM WITH HIM. MOST OF REMAINDER DECLARED THEY WANTED TO JOIN FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

2. ACCORDING TO BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS, PARENTS WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF WHO FINANCED TRIP TO BOTSWANA. HOWEVER, TRIP CLEARLY ORGANISED BY SMITH REGIME. SHORT- VALIDITY PASSPORTS WERE ISSUED IN ONE DAY (CANON CARR CLAIMED THAT PASSPORT APPLICATIONS OF BLACK RHODESIANS USUALLY TAKE 6-14 MONTHS TO BE PROCESSED) AND SEVEN BUSES PROVIDED (THREE FOR PARENTS AND FOUR FOR EXPECTED RETURNEES).

3. FEB 9 8 DAILY NEWS ALMOST COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO THIS IMPORTANT (FOR BOTSWANA) NEWS EVENT. CENTRAL FEATURE IS EDITORIAL CALLING INCIDENT A DIPLOMATIC VICTORY FOR BOTSWANA OVER SMITH. ACCORDING TO EDITORIAL, INTERNATIONAL PRESS SAW BIG LIE (THAT CHILDREN HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED) MELT AWAY WHEN CHILDREN (A) DECLARED THAT THEY WANT TO JOIN GUERRILLAS AND (B) TURNED BACKS ON PARENTS INTNT ON DELIVERING THEM INTO SMITH'S ITCHING HANDS . THRUST OF EDITORIAL IS THAT LIBERATION STRUGGLE HAS BECOME BUSINESS OF THE CHILDREN OF SOWETO, MANAMA AND W ELSEWHERE. CHILDREN WILL DENOUNCE PARENTS WHO SIDE WITH SMITH.

4. COMMENT BY SEPTEL
NORLAND

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, STUDENTS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GABORO00354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770046-0678
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770259/aaaacalq.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aee418c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GABORONE 319
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3368711
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 51 STUDENTS RETURN TO RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, OTRA, BC, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae418c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009